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Ministry of Attorney General
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism

FUNDING HELPS END RACISM IN COMMUNITIES

VICTORIA – Thirty-eight projects that promote multiculturalism and combat racism are receiving grants totalling over $190,000 to support welcoming communities for immigrants and encourage cultural diversity, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism Wally Oppal announced today.

Funds were granted through the B.C. Anti-racism and Multiculturalism Program (BCAMP). The first series of grants provide $2,500 each to organizations in Courtenay, Cranbrook, Duncan, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, Powell River, Prince George, Quesnel, Richmond, Terrace, Vancouver, Vanderhoof and Victoria. Twenty organizations were selected of the 38 that completed an application.

"These projects will address racism and multiculturalism in different and innovative ways," Oppal said. "Some will focus on creating dialogues among youth in schools, while others will focus on community events to promote multiculturalism. Cross-cultural understanding is a key to B.C.'s continued economic and cultural success."

The second series of grants provides funding to communities engaged in the Critical Incident Response Model (CIRM) through the BCAMP. Organizations in Abbotsford, Burns Lake, Campbell River, Courtenay, Cranbrook, Duncan, Fernie, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Langley, Nanaimo, Powell River, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Terrace, Vanderhoof and Williams Lake were the successful applicants for up to $7,780 in funding. All of the 18 organizations that applied were selected.

"By rejecting discrimination and welcoming newcomers, we're building strong, culturally diverse communities," said Oppal. "We're making multiculturalism work through the efforts of community organizations like these."

BCAMP supports the development of strong, healthy and culturally diverse communities. The program provides multicultural and anti-racism education, develops community partnerships and encourages cross-cultural dialogue. BCAMP grants also enable communities to respond to incidents of racism and hate.

The provincial Critical Incident Response Model further assists communities throughout B.C. to develop community-led responses to racism and hate activity. Local governments, community-based organizations, the provincial Hate Crime Team and other local members work together to develop a plan for responding to racism in their community.

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For more information on BCAMP and CIRM, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/ag

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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